

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 PRS-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:REBUTLER:REB

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S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----311814Z 102627 /43

O 311740Z MAR 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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NO. 15 FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BALTIMORE SUN EDITORIAL THURSDAY
MARCH 31 HEADED "MR. BREZHNEV'S BIG SNEEZE."

2. "SOME PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED," PRESIDENT CARTER SAID
THE OTHER DAY, "EVERY TIME BREZHNEV SNEEZES." WELL, THE
SOVIET PARTY BOSS HAS SNEEZED RIGHT IN THE FACE OF THE
AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, AND NOW IT WILL BE UP TO
MR. CARTER TO SHOW HIS UNCONCERN OR, AT LEAST, HIS
UNWILLINGNESS TO ABANDON HIS EFFORTS TO MAKE HUMAN
RIGHTS THE CORNERSTONE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. THE NEW
PRESIDENT'S METTLE ALSO WILL BE TESTED ON HIS ABILITY TO
HOLD TO THE BOLD, TOUGH INITIATIVES IN STRATEGIC ARMS
LIMITATIONS HE MADE ON THE EVE OF SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP
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TO MOSCOW.

3. MR. BREZHNEV'S REBUFF TO SECRETARY VANCE'S SALT II
PACKAGE IS BOUND TO BE INTERPRETED AS A REACTION TO
MR. CARTER'S OPEN SUPPORT FOR SOVIET DISSIDENTS. AFTER
ALL, HAS NOT THE SOVIET LEADER LECTURED THE NEW AMERICAN
PRESIDENT ON THE NEED FOR A "MINIMAL DEGREE OF CORRECT-

NESS" AND "NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" AS PREREQUISITES FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS?

4. MR. BREZHNEV'S STANCE, HOWEVER, IS NOT ENTIRELY A REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS, AND THE WHITE HOUSE SHOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO BREAK ANY SUCH LINKAGE IN THE PUBLIC'S MIND. THE FACT IS THAT MR. VANCE'S CALL FOR "DEEP REDUCTIONS" IN PRESENT STRATEGIC ARSENALS OR ACCEPTANCE OF THE BREZHNEV-FORD VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN REJECTED EVEN IF MR. CARTER HAD NOT RECEIVED VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY OR SENT A LETTER TO ANDREI SAKHAROV. THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD, IN ITS PRESENT FORM, IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE RUSSIANS BECAUSE IT SETS NO LIMITS ON CRUISE MISSILES, DEADLY NEW WEAPONS IN WHICH THE U.S. HOLDS A DISTINCT LEAD. NOR CAN THEY READILY ACCEPT SHARP CUTS IN THE VLADIVOSTOK CEILINGS THAT WOULD REQUIRE A CUTBACK IN THEIR HEAVY INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE FORCE.

5. IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE KREMLIN IS SO UPSET WITH MR. CARTER THAT MR. BREZHNEV WOULD HAVE STYMIED THE VANCE MISSION, WHATEVER THE SECRETARY HAD TO OFFER. BUT TO ITS CREDIT, THE ADMINISTRATION REFUSED TO REACH FOR A MOSCOW "SUCCESS" BY ACCOMMODATING THE ONE-SIDED SOVIET DEMAND TO ADD CRUISE MISSILES TO THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD. INSTEAD, IT IDENTIFIED THE U.S. POSITION WITH FORCE REDUCTIONS AND QUALITATIVE CURBS THAT MUST COME IF THE SUPERPOWERS ARE TO TURN DOWN THE WORLD ARMS RACE. AND, IN SO DOING, IT MADE IT EASY FOR MR. BREZHNEV TO BALK.

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6. PRESIDENT CARTER'S COURSE SHOULD BE TO TAKE THE LOGIC OF HIS SALT PROPOSALS TO THE WORLD AS FORCEFULLY AS HE HAS PURSUED THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE ARE SEVEN MONTHS TO GO BEFORE THE SALT I AGREEMENT ON OFFENSIVE MISSILE CEILINGS EXPIRES -- MONTHS IN WHICH A SALT II ACCORD CAN STILL BE FRAMED OR AN EXTENSION OF SALT I AGREED UPON. IF AN EXTENSION IS THE RESULT, THE INEVITABLE DISAPPOINTMENT SHOULD BE COUNTERED BY A U.S. DRIVE TO MAKE A SALT II ACCORD THE MORE IMPRESSIVE KIND OF DOCUMENT OUTLINED BY SECRETARY VANCE.

7. IN THE MEANTIME, THE PRESIDENT SHOULD CARRY ON HIS HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE HE IS RESTORING HIS COUNTRY'S MORAL INFLUENCE IN WORLD AFFAIRS. AFTER THE REVERBERATIONS FROM MR. BREZHNEV'S BIG SNEEZE SUBSIDE, THE SOVIET UNION WILL STILL HAVE TO RESPOND TO ITS NATIONAL NEEDS. WHILE IT HAS TO WORRY MR. CARTER WILL STIR RESISTANCE IN THE SOVIET BLOC, IT IS UNDER

INTENSE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY PRESSURE TO REDUCE STRATE-
GIC EXPENDITURES. IF A SALT II AGREEMENT IS TO MATERIA-
LIZE, THIS WILL BE THE REASON. END TEXT.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE071403
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REBUTLER:REB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770111-0075
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977031/aaaaavh.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 068d07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2933075
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, UR, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/068d07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009